Message Text

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW

SUBJECT: GDR REACTION ON FRG CONSTITUTIONAL COURT DECISION

REF: A. BONN 10905 B. BONN 11169

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 16

ITS FIRST COMMENTARY ON FRG CONSTITUTIONAL COURT'S

DECISION REGARDING FRG-GDR GENERAL RELATIONS TREATY. ND

PIECE, WHICH VERY SIMILAR TO EARLIER COMMENTARIES ON

SUBJECT BY SOVIET MEDIA (E.G. RADIO MOSCOW ON AUGUST 8),

DISMISSES COURT'S INTERPRETATIONS OF GRT AS CONTRARY TO

TREATY PROVISIONS, DIVORCED FROM REALITY. AND DESERVING TO BE TOSSED

ON TRASH HEAP OF HISTORY. STRESSING THAT ONLY GRT

ITSELF HAS VALIDITY, ND ASSERTS THAT LETTER AND SPIRIT

OF TREATY LEAVE NO ROOM FOR "INNER-GERMAN EXERCISES,"

SEEKS TO REBUTT WHAT IT CALLS COURT'S "GROTESQUE LEGAL

CONSTRUCTIONS," AND WARNS THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO APPLY

"REVANCHIST" INTERPRETATIONS OF GRT IN PRACTICE WOULD

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NOT ONLY BE DOOMED TO FAILURE BUT ALSO SERIOUSLY BURDEN

GDR-FRG RELATIONS.

2. COMMENT. GDR CLEARLY COULD NOT HAVE REMAINED SILENT ABOUT KARLSRUHE INTERPRETATIONS, WHICH FOR MOST PART DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO GDR POSITION THAT GRT HAS SEALED DIVISION OF GERMAN REICH INTO TWO COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATES. AT SAME TIME, GDR PRESUMABLY AWARE THAT A VIOLENT REACTION BY IT COULD INCREASE WEIGHT OF THOSE INTERPRETATIONS IN CONTEXT OF FRG DOMESTIC POLITICS. THIS PROBABLY EXPLAINS DELAY IN, AND ESSENTIALLY IRONICAL TONE OF, ND COMMENTARY. GDR'S EFFORT TO TREAT KARLSRUHE INTERPRETATIONS AS MERE "REVERIES" DEVOID OF ANY PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE ALSO EVIDENT FROM FACT THAT ND NOT ONLY CAREFULLY AVOIDS ASSOCIATING BONN GOVERNMENT WITH THOSE INTERPREATIONS BUT ALSO ACCOMPANIES ITS COMMENTARY WITH EXCERPTS FROM SPD ORGAN VORWAERTS AUGUST 9 ARTICLE CRTICIZING LACK OF REALISM SHOWN BY CONSTITUTIONAL COURT.KLEIN

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